



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Robert Weil, Chair

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES,
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020, 9:00AM – ZOOM MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Members		16-Oct-19	19-Dec-19	26-Feb-20	22-Apr-20	17-Jun-20	26-Aug-20	28-Oct-20
	Bi-monthly meeting dates as 10/17							
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	BB&T Bank	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arroyo, Rosy	Camden County Youth Services Commission				X		X	X
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission	X		X	X	X	X	X
Barbella, Sarah	Camden Probation Division			X	X	X		
Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC Local Area Operations Director	X	X	X	X		X	X
Davis, Pastor Keith	Camden Dream Academy							X
Godofsky, Mark	Surety Title			X				
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group		X		X	X	X	X
Hill, Lauren	Director, Adult Basic Skills (ABS) CCC	X	X		X	X		X
McNair, David	Dept. of Education					X		
Morris, Craig	NJ Dept. of Education			X	X			
Peterson, Jyi	Youth Counselor, CCOS				X	X	X	X
Riggins, Matthew	Riggins Oil Inc.			X	X	X	X	X
Scott, Kenneth	Winslow Township High School	X			X	X	X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop	X		X	X	X	X	X
Taguwa, Denise	NJ Dept. Of Labor & Workforce Development							X
Vasquez, Marisol	Youth Counselor, CCOS		X		X	X	X	X
Velasquez, Gil	Camden Probation Division					X	X	X
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School				X			
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build				X	X	X	X
Washington, Daquan	CPAC		X	X			X	X
Williams, Jen	Covenant House	X			X	X	X	
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Executive Director	X			X	X	X	X
Levitt, Alex	WDB Administrative Assistant	X	X		X	X	X	X
Varallo, Kathleen	WDB Administrative Assistant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB Comptroller			X				

WELCOME

Matthew Verney, Youth Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15am. The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATES/COVID-19 RESPONSE

Matt asked the One-Stop staff if there were any new updates since the previous meeting. Jyi Peterson, Youth Counselor, One-Stop, reported that the Youth One-Stop currently has 4-5 people in training. He and Marisol Vasquez, Youth Counselor, One-Stop, have been doing the follow-up with their customers. Jyi said there has been a slight increase in new customers over the past month. Those customers have been participating in virtual orientations and being evaluated for eligibility. Jyi said the One-Stop is still getting used to becoming acclimated with handling everything virtually. Matt asked Jyi or Marisol if they had noticed a drop off in the number of new inquiries. Marisol said it has been about the same. She added that the process has not changed in terms of customer information and evaluating eligibility for new customers.

Lori Godorov, Executive Director, The Work Group, offered the Work Group as a referral site for youth as they are still doing in person orientations. She reminded everyone that the Work

Group does their own eligibility evaluation. Lori said they have a new class starting November 9th. Orientation for that class is scheduled for October 29th and 30th. Lori offered this orientation to anyone in the committee who may have referrals. Kathleen Varallo, Administrative Assistant to the Exec. Director, WDB, asks if the customers would be co-enrolled by going this route. Marisol confirmed that if a customer passes eligibility and is WIOA eligible then that customer is co-enrolled.

Pastor Keith Davis, President/Founder, Camden Dream Academy, asked if either Lori or Marisol's customers have interest in courses provided by the Dream Academy with an acumen on technology. Marisol replied saying they provide new customers with an interest inventory or career bank to complete. This form helps us determine what their interests are and helps us place them more appropriately. Marisol added that if there is not any training directly related to their interest, then the counselors can offer other trainings that may be indirectly related to their career interests. Pastor Keith said if any customers have an interest in technology, he would be more than willing to offer his services which are all virtual. Marisol asked if a credential is provided by completing the virtual courses. Pastor Keith replied it is a three-step process; virtual certificate of completion, digital badging, and then a certification recognized by industry. Lori asked if the One-Stop is doing the career banking virtually. Marisol replied saying yes.

Jeff Swartz, Executive Director, WDB, said prior to the meeting, he had a chance to speak with Frank Cirii, Local Area Operations Director, One-Stop. Frank told Jeff that the One-Stop had 70 people in training for the QLess scheduling system, the One-Stop will be using for customers.

Youth Work Experience

Matt asked if there were any new updates on the Youth Work Experience Program. Jyi said there are a few potential candidates for the program, but we are waiting for them to finish training. Lori asked if the work experience is being done virtually and in person. Nidia Sinclair, Director, Resource Center, said there are instances where it is both in person and virtually, but for other situations it would be in person. Matt and Jeff expressed that the youth work experience needs to be a top priority. Nidia said that Covid-19 was a contributing factor in the process of getting the program on its feet, but the Youth One-Stop team is focused on obtaining qualified candidates for Youth Work Experience.

Pastor Keith asked for some clarification on the Youth Work Experience. Marisol explained that a customer would have to be eligible and involved in some form of training or remediation to qualify. The experience would be linked to the customers career interests based on what is available to be offered. Marisol added that the team is trying to find a way to have the work experience correspond with the training the participant is already enrolled in. Pastor Keith understood and asked if it was due to lack of employers. Marisol explained that Covid-19 was a factor in employers not wanting to participate due to safety concerns or site closures. Lori added that it is not strictly in person for the work experience but that virtual is allowed. Employers for the program however do not have all the technology needed to accommodate a virtual work experience. Matt agreed with the committee about the logistical challenges ahead for the Youth Work Experience, but he is encouraged that the committee is keeping a record of their active work on getting the program running. Jeff made a point to address the payment method for the

participants. He said it would be in the form of a stipend. The stipend would not affect the participants income. Lori asked if it was possible to mandate the participation and work experience as part of payment for training. Marisol said that would not be possible because it is one of the WIOA elements required of the program to have it separate. Lori clarified what she meant; could there be requirements set in place from the beginning that would clarify any issues brought forth. Matt said that might be an idea to pursue. Nidia said that she, Jyi and Marisol will reconvene to establish how they can internally have a virtual work experience to satisfy the requirements of the program. Lori added she would provide any materials to help with the virtual process.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY/SUCCESS STORY VIDEO FOLLOW-UP

Matt moved on to the topic of a social media policy and social marketing. His goal was to have a video showcasing the benefits of the Youth One-Stop which could be shared on various platforms such as Facebook or Instagram. Jyi had provided footage of 2 customers answering 7 questions, provided by Jyi, about their One-Stop experience. Nidia reminded the committee that PowerDirector365, the video editing software, had been purchased.

Alex Levitt, Administrative. Assistant, WDB, updated the committee on the progress of the video. He showed the committee an example of one of the video clips given to him by Jyi. Examples of the questions included what their experience was like with the Youth One-Stop, “what were your short/long term goals?”, etc. Jyi suggested editing the video to fit the individual questions provided. Alex asked Jyi and Marisol if it was possible to get one more customer video. Jyi said obtaining customer videos will be an ongoing process as there are more customers in training right now. Some of the customers were having difficulty submitting recordings. Nidia added that they are also working to get female representation in the video. Alex said the video is making progress and hoped to have a rough draft ready before the next Youth Committee meeting.

Matt Riggins, Strategy Director, Riggins Oil, Inc., asked if the participants for the video completed a photo/video release form. Nidia said there are release forms available and will make sure participants sign one. Lori reminded them that if the customer is under 18, they will need parental consent. After some discussion, Lori and Nidia agreed that any release form should be included in the eligibility packets.

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATES

Alex provided an update about the end of the Summer Youth Employment Program. It concluded on September 4th with a total of 15 candidates who finished the program. 2 participants worked with The Kipp School under Joe Hejlek, Director of Wraparound Services, 2 other participants worked with The Salvation Army/Kroc Center under Margie McLaughlin, Human Resources Director, and the remaining 11 participants worked with Commissioner Carmen Rodriguez and the City of Camden on a US Census project. Alex acknowledged all committee members and the Youth One-Stop staff for providing great instruction and assistance during the program.

Kathleen updated the committee on the WDB's activity. She said the Abilities Committee is in the process of setting up a PTSD event in partnership with Cooper University Healthcare that relates to veterans. Due to Covid-19, the event was pushed to spring of 2021 to avoid having the further capacity restrictions and the committee felt the content was too valuable to host virtually. Kathleen added that in lieu of the event being postponed, the Abilities Committee will be recognizing Disabilities Employment Awareness Month through all WDB social media platforms including all organizations the committee members represent.

Kathleen continued with updates on the Literacy Committee. The Literacy Committee had met with the Camden County Library System over Zoom. She said the library had seen an increase in digital usage of virtual services. Both the committee and library agreed to embrace the new virtual presence and offer more workforce outreach. She concluded by saying that all the committees have remained active virtually. Kathleen mentioned that Steve Ravitz would be honored at the December Quarterly Meeting.

-No other committee updates were provided.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at 9:00am, was cancelled due to the holiday. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24th at 9:00am.

Submitted by, Alex Levitt, Administrative Assistant, WDB.